

HERITAGE AREA BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2003

The fall legislative season is underway. A recent hearing on heritage areas was held in the House Resources Subcommittee and the Senate is reviewing the Interior appropriations bill that has already been passed by the House. This also the season of conferences and events with the National Trust meeting bringing many heritage area supporters together in Denver next week (Oct 1-4) and the Joint Ventures Partnership Conference set for November 18-20 in Los Angeles.

Legislative Update

On September 16 the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands held the first hearing of the 108th Congress on individual heritage area bills. The hearing, chaired by George Radanovich (R-CA), heard testimony from David Hobson (R-OH) on H.R. 280 to establish the National Aviation Heritage Area; from Denise Majette (D-GA) on H.R. 1618 to establish the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area; from Donna Christensen (D-VI and also ranking member of the subcommittee) on H.R.1594 to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area; and from John Peterson (R-PA) on H.R. 1862 to establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area. The National Park Service did not testify at the hearing due to late notification of the hearing. In addition to the testimony by the bill sponsors community members from the three areas proposed for designation also testified. The final two witnesses were J. Peyton Knight, legislative director from the American Policy Center who testified "...on the behalf of property rights advocates across the country who are concerned with the impacts of National Heritage Areas on land use, private property rights and local communities" and Daniel Clifton, Federal Affairs Manager, Americans for Tax Reform, Washington D.C. who testified "The National Heritage Area proposal has all the dynamics to become an exploding federal program, which threatens long-term fiscal stability of the federal budget". After limited questioning, the hearing was concluded. The next step in the process is the subcommittee mark-up.

Heritage Area Bulletin on Interns

This is the second National Heritage Area Bulletin in a series of occasional publications. The first Heritage Area Bulletin on the NPS Passport Program can be found on our web site. www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/

National Heritage Areas Program Bulletin # 2

Internship Opportunities through the National Park Service

The following opportunities, affiliated with NPS, enable heritage areas to complete special projects affordably and to improve program visibility. Because most programs have a deadline in early winter for creating a summer position, projects and matching funding sources should be identified early.

1. Diversity Program — This intern program is sponsored by the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Diversity Program. Students and young professionals are placed with historic preservation and cultural resources programs at NPS and affiliated sites. Students often have foreign language skills or can contribute knowledge of specific cultural or historical resources. NPS matches the cost of the intern with the host institution. For more information, see

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdi/internships/intrnCRDIP.htm>

Or contact Michele Gates Moresi at 202.354.2266,
michele_gates_moresi@contractor.nps.gov.

2. US/ICOMOS International Summer Intern Program – This program places international applicants in historic preservation organizations and programs to work on specific cultural heritage projects. The program advances the participants' understanding of international preservation, and enables the host institution to complete a specific project at low cost in addition to fostering an international relationship and raising the profile of the area. For hosting guidelines, see

<http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/SIP/USHostOrganizationGuidelines.htm>

Blackstone Staff nominated for Freeman Tilden Award

Suzanne Buchanan, Park Ranger at the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, has been nominated as the Northeast Region's Freeman Tilden Nominee for 2003.

Suzanne was nominated for the Blackstone Valley-Wide Interpretive Volunteer Program that has created an "army" of skilled interpretive volunteers throughout the two states and 24 cities and towns that make up the National Heritage Corridor. Suzanne has worked with partner organizations to ensure that their doors are open, that visitors are welcome, and that the programs are coordinated and well prepared. Maybe most importantly, Suzanne has created an esprit de corps among the volunteers whereby they feel a sense of mission, pride and stewardship responsibility. In just two years under Suzanne's guidance, Blackstone has seen an eight-fold increase in volunteer hours.

Most importantly, she has established a solid foundation for a successful Volunteer in Parks program that is responsive to the interests and needs of the volunteers as well as the participating organizations of the National Heritage Corridor.

New Executive Director for Automobile National Heritage Area

Mark Pischea has been named the new executive director of the MotorCities-Automobile National Heritage Area. He has a background working on regional initiatives, most recently as the Campaign Director for the Cultural Coalition of Southeast Michigan's "Arts, Parks and Kids" campaign. He will be working on an agenda that includes heritage tourism, revitalization and education.

On the Road

The fall is travel time and your editor will be at the National Trust annual meeting in Denver Oct 1-4 participating in a Heritage Development Institute sponsored session "Heritage Areas: The Basics" on Oct. 1 and moderating a session that looks at western heritage area initiatives titled "Heritage Areas: New Opportunities" (Oct 2 3:30 to 5:00). On October 14 I will be speaking at the University of Vermont's Conservation Lecture Series sponsored by the Conservation Study Institute and the University's School of Natural Resources and on October 16 at a conference entitled "Extending Connections: From Pasture to Pavement" in Cumberland MD, sponsored by the Delaware and Maryland Chapters of the American Planning Association.

The Schuylkill Valley National Heritage Area and the National Park Service will be hosting an afternoon reception on Tuesday Oct 21 to celebrate the completion of the area's management plan along the river in Pottstown PA. On October 23 I will be speaking at the rescheduled Delaware Greenways meeting in Red Clay Creek (Thanks to Isabel). A trip to the Hudson Valley is on the drawing board for the end of the month. Whew!